

## SEPA IWG Teleconference Summary

Tuesday, August 5, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### Attendance

#### Co-Leads:

Jim Lopez	King County
Dick Settle	Foster Pepper
Jeannie Summerhays	Washington Department of Ecology

#### Members and Alternates:

Jayson Antonoff	City of Seattle, Dept of Planning & Development
Anthony Chavez	Weyerhaeuser
Sean Cryan	Mithun
Jennifer Dold	Bricklin, Newman, Dold, LLP
Ann Farr*	Washington Public Ports Association
Kari-lynn Frank	National Association of Industrial and Office Properties
Hilary Franz	Bainbridge City Council
T.C. Richmond	GordenDerr Attorneys at Law
Michael Robinson-Dorn	UW Law School
Tim Trohimovich	Futurewise
Tayloe Washburn	Foster Pepper
Mia Waters**	Washington Department of Transportation
Perry Weinberg	Sound Transit
Jim Wilder	Jones & Stokes

\*Alternate for John Mohr, Port of Everett

\*\*Alternate for Megan White, Washington Department of Transportation

#### Absent:

Gregg Carrington	Chelan PUD
Valerie Grigg Devis	Community, Trade, and Economic Development
Connie Krueger	City of Leavenworth
Mark Kulass	Douglas County
Dan McGrady	Vulcan
Bill Messenger	Washington Labor Council
John Mohr	Port of Everett (alternate present)
David Troutt	Nisqually Tribe
Clay White	Stevens County
Megan White	Washington Department of Transportation (alternate present)

#### Facilitation and Technical Support:

Tom Beierle	Ross & Associates Environmental Consulting, Ltd. (facilitator)
Patricia Betts	Washington Department of Transportation
Fred Greef	Washington Department of Transportation
Simon Kihia	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Matt Kuharic	King County
Brendan McFarland	Washington Department of Ecology

Annie Szvetcz  
Laura Watson

Washington Department of Ecology  
Washington Attorney General's Office

### Background Documents

Available online at [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/2008CAT\\_iwg\\_sepa.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/2008CAT_iwg_sepa.htm)

### Agenda:

#### Draft Roadmap to September 30

- SEPA IWG

#### Threshold Determination: Statewide Consistency

- Review and discuss options for statewide consistency
- Identify “sense of the group” on preferred options

#### Measurement Tools (*discussion postponed until next meeting*)

- Review current draft tools matrix
- Discuss gaps and potential need for new tools or approach

### Discussion Items and Key Issues

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - 1.1. The Co-leads welcomed members, technical staff and the public to the call.
2. Draft Roadmap to September 30
  - 2.1. Tom Beierle and the Co-leads walked through the Roadmap document.
  - 2.2. The group discussed the key activities and points of group direction/decision before September 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - 2.3. Jeannie Summerhays described a potential model for a draft “roll-up” table on emission types, tools and mitigation strategies. She also offered that Ecology would develop a draft revised checklist based on information about greenhouse gas emission types, test cases, and measurement tools developed by the IWG.
  - 2.4. The group discussed carbon sinks as a component of the IWG’s work on measuring net emissions, measurement tools and mitigation strategies.
  - 2.5. It was suggested that the IWG subgroups use case studies to analyze approaches to measurement, mitigation, and threshold determination. The Bucket 1.A “what do we measure?” group will provide 3 case studies that span a range of issues as part of their analysis. The subgroup will share the cases with the full group so that other subgroups can apply the cases to their work as well. At the August 28 meeting the Bucket 1.A subgroup will walk through the “What do we measure” process with the full IWG using the case studies.
  - 2.6. The group discussed the resiliency/vulnerability/adaption piece of its charge. Several members volunteered to work on this issue between now and September 30<sup>th</sup> and will serve as a repository for ideas that may be drafted into a summary document.
  - 2.7. The Bucket 3 section of the Roadmap on “Leveraging SEPA” was discussed. The LUCC Committee is also addressing incentives and disincentives to leverage SEPA for climate-friendly development. After the September 12<sup>th</sup> LUCC meeting, the SEPA IWG will have more information on what aspects of SEPA are being covered by that Committee. It was suggested that the Bucket 3 subgroup provide its list of incentives and disincentives to the full group by August 28<sup>th</sup>, rather than September 9<sup>th</sup>, as scheduled in the Roadmap. The Bucket 3 subgroup

will schedule a conference call to identify the most feasible ideas on table. The subgroup will identify areas where more focused work is needed and will report to the full group on August 28<sup>th</sup>. By September 9 the IWG will have focus on the most promising ideas for incentives and disincentives.

- 2.8. It was suggested that the Roadmap include a column on deliverables being developed on or before September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### 3. Threshold Determination: Statewide Consistency

- 3.1. The discussion of threshold determination focused on options for statewide consistency.

Jennifer Dold introduced a draft summary developed by the threshold team, titled “Significance Threshold Approaches: Options for Statewide Consistency.” The draft summary outlined the following four approaches to statewide consistency:

- 3.1.1. A statewide standard,
- 3.1.2. A statewide framework that includes some sideboards for the standards that local agencies can use,
- 3.1.3. A procedural requirement that local agencies develop a significance standard, and
- 3.1.4. A “safe harbor” where local agencies could either adopt a statewide “safe harbor” standard or develop their own standard.

- 3.2. The group discussed the options to clarify the key characteristics of each.

- 3.3. To get a “sense of the group,” IWG members and alternates present were asked to identify their current preference among the options. The results were as follows:

- Option 1 (statewide standard): 10 members, with two additional people adding it as a second option
- Option 2 (statewide framework): 2 members, with 3 additional people adding it as a second option
- Option 3 (procedural requirement): 1 member
- Option 4 (safe harbor): 5 members, with 4 additional people adding it as a second option
- Total members/alternates present and voting: 17
- Total members absent (without alternates): 8

- 3.4. At the August 28 meeting the group will focus on types of significance standards, considering how they might work as a statewide standard or a “safe harbor.” The IWG will look at those standards in the context of the case studies identified by the “what do we measure?” subgroup.

### 4. Measurement Tools

- 4.1. The discussion of measurement tools was moved to the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- 4.2. In the meantime, members of the measurement tools subgroup and Ecology staff will coordinate with CTED staff on their approach to measurement tools under ESSB 6580.

### Steps Forward

- The measurement subgroup, tools subgroup and mitigation strategies subgroup will include carbon sinks as part of their portfolio of issues to consider.
- Bucket 1.A on “What do we Measure?” will provide case studies for the full group to consider. The measurement tools and mitigation subgroups will apply their proposals to the case studies for the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- A new subgroup will convene in the next few weeks to begin its work on resiliency/vulnerability/adaptation issues.

- The Bucket 3 subgroup will schedule a conference call to prepare information for the full group.
- The Threshold Determination subgroup will refine descriptions of significance standards and will further define option 4 (“safe harbor”) in more detail for the August 28 meeting. Any comments or questions from the IWG on the options for significance standards in the appendix provided should be directed to Hilary Franz and Patricia Betts by Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Members of the measurement tools subgroup and Ecology staff will coordinate with CTED staff on the measurement tools work under ESSB 6580.

**Next Meeting**

The next SEPA IWG meeting will be an in person meeting on August 28th at the Foster Pepper offices, Suite 3400, 1111 Third Avenue, Seattle. It will be an all day meeting.